

United States House of Representatives



**Subcommittee on National Security,
Emerging Threats and International Relations**

Christopher Shays, Connecticut
Chairman

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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

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Contact: Robert Briggs

**Shays to Hold June 15 Hearing on Iraqi Perceptions of U.S. Actions;
Iraq Diplomatic Representative to Testify**

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (R-CT), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations, will convene an oversight hearing June 15 to examine challenges confronted in U.S. efforts to communicate effectively with the Iraqi people.

The hearing will be Tuesday, June 15, 2 p.m. in room 2247 of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C.

The United States and its Coalition partners are attempting to win the hearts and minds of the people in Iraq while providing military security and support to economic and political reform programs. But some assumptions made about Iraq proved faulty, and some policy decisions were controversial and created more doubt than confidence in U.S. capabilities and intentions.

On February 10, 2004, the subcommittee held a hearing entitled, *Public Diplomacy in the Middle East* to examine regional efforts to convey U.S. policies and values to diverse audiences. This hearing will build on that discussion to focus on the assumptions and policy decisions made over the past year in Iraq. Witnesses will also describe corrective actions that might be undertaken to regain the confidence and cooperation (hearts and minds) of the Iraqi people, improve public diplomacy messages, and help chart the course for future efforts in Iraq.

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“Iraq: Winning Hearts and Minds”
(June 15, 2004)

WITNESS LIST

Panel I

Ambassador Rend al-Rahim
Iraqi Interests Section

Panel II

William Joseph Burns (invited)
Assistant Secretary

Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Department of State

Mr. Douglas Feith (invited)

Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Office of Secretary of Defense

Lieutenant General Walter L. Sharp

Director for Strategic Plans and Policy, Joint Chiefs of Staff

The Honorable Andrew S. Natsios (invited)

Administrator, US Agency for International Development

Panel III

General Wayne A. Downing (USA, Ret.) (invited)

Chair, Combating Terrorism Center
United States Military Academy

Professor Anthony H. Cordesman (invited)

Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy
Center for Strategic and International Studies

Mr. Richard Galen

Former Director
Strategic Media
Coalition Provisional Authority

Dr. Samer S. Shehata

Center for Contemporary Arab Studies
Georgetown University